

ESSB 6002 - H AMD TO H AMD (H-4473.1/14) **836**

By Representative Dahlquist

OUT OF ORDER 03/04/2014

1 On page 274, after line 16, insert the following:

2
3 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 923 (1)(a) The legislature finds that Article
4 IX of the state Constitution provides: "It is the paramount duty of
5 the state to make ample provision for the education of all children
6 residing within its borders ... " The legislature further finds that
7 the legislature's duty under Article IX of the state Constitution is
8 to define and amply fund the program of basic education using
9 dependable resources.

10 (b) The legislature acknowledges that while local levies cannot be
11 used to fund basic education, local levies enable schools to provide
12 programs and activities beyond that required by Article IX of the
13 state Constitution. The legislature recognizes that local levies are
14 important to the educational funding system and is a primary method
15 for communities to show support of the local schools.

16 (c) The legislature intends to create a legislative task force to
17 review the use of local levies by school districts and the equity
18 issues resulting from various aspects of the local levy process, and
19 to recommend approaches to address the equity issues.

20 (2)(a) The joint task force on local education financing reform is
21 created to review the use of local levies by school districts and the
22 equity issues resulting from various aspects of the local levy
23 process, recommend approaches and draft legislation to address the
24 equity issues identified, and submit a report to the governor and the
25 legislature by December 1, 2014.

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1 (b) Appointments to the task force shall be completed within
2 thirty days of the effective date of this section. The task force
3 shall consist of eight voting members and two ex officio members.

4 (i) The voting members shall be:

5 (A) Four members from the house of representatives, two from each
6 major caucus, appointed by the speaker of the house of
7 representatives; and

8 (B) Four members from the senate, two from each major caucus,
9 appointed by the majority leader and minority leader of the major
10 caucuses of the senate.

11 (ii) The two ex officio members shall be:

12 (A) The governor or the governor's designee; and

13 (B) The superintendent of public instruction or the
14 superintendent's designee.

15 (c) The voting members of the task force shall select cochairs
16 from the voting members of the task force.

17 (d) The task force shall:

18 (i) Review the work of the levy and local effort assistance
19 technical working group created in accordance with chapter 548, Laws
20 of 2009, and amended by chapter 236, Laws of 2010, and other relevant
21 studies and information;

22 (ii) Review the use of local levies by school districts, including
23 the level of funding and how the funding is used by school districts;

24 (iii) Review equity issues related to various aspects of the local
25 levy process, including school district levy authority, the
26 determination of the levy base, the different levy lids, and levy
27 equalization;

28 (iv) Recommend approaches in a report to the governor and the
29 legislature to address the equity issues and provide a system for
30 state and local funds that are distributed in an equitably but not
31 necessarily equivalent manner so that all children have the
32 opportunity to meet the state's academic standards and become prepared
33 for postsecondary careers and education. Any recommendation included
34 in the report must be supported by at least six voting members of the

1 task force. The report must include draft legislation to implement
2 the recommendations of the task force.

3 (e) The task force shall receive staff and logistical support from
4 the house of representatives office of program research, senate
5 committee services, office of financial management, and the office of
6 the superintendent of public instruction. The first meeting of the
7 task force shall be convened by the house of representatives office of
8 program research and senate committee services within forty-five days
9 of the effective date of this section.

10 (f) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for
11 travel expenses as provided in RCW 44.04.120."

12
13 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any
14 internal references accordingly.

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EFFECT: Creates a joint task force on local education financing reform to review the use of, and equity issues related to local levies. The task force consists of four members from the House of Representatives, four members from the Senate, the Governor or his designee, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or his designee. The Governor and Superintendent are non-voting members. The task force is staffed by Senate Committee Services and the Office of Program Research, with additional support from the Office of Financial Management and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The task force is required to review the use of local levies by school districts and equity issues resulting from various aspects of the local levy process. The task force must submit its report to the governor and the legislature recommending changes to the current funding system that addresses equity issues in the local levy process and provides a system for state and local funds that are distributed in an equitable manner, by December 1, 2014. The recommendation of the task force must be supported by at least six voting members.

FISCAL IMPACT: No net change to appropriated levels.

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